



Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting
Monday, June 8, 2020
6:00 PM
Weldon Auditorium, 7 Maple Street, Manning, SC

Those in attendance:

Chairman Dwight L. Stewart, Jr.
Councilman Billy G. Richardson
Councilman Benton Blakely
Clerk to Council, Dorothy M. Levy

Vice Chairman W.J. Frierson
Councilman A.C. English
County Administrator, David W. Epperson

Press in attendance: None

Others in attendance included:

Lynden Anthony	Ted Felder	Meesha Witherspoon	Barbara Ferrell
Johnny Wilson	Zion Wilson	Lottie Jones	Patricia Drakeford
Sandy L. Jenkins	Jake McElveen	Dorothy Moorner	Chris McKinney
Michael A. Johnson	Brad Gerfin	Robert Pegram	Jason Dennis
Tim Baxley	Virbria Conyers	Bobby Ridgeway	Betty Phillips
Vicki Williams	Jake Whitmire	And Other Clarendon County Residents	

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Councilman Richardson led the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

1. Approval of the Agenda

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Agenda for June 8, 2020.

2. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the council meeting minutes for the Regular Council Meeting, which was held on Monday, May 11, 2020.

3. Clarendon County 2020 Census Update

Ms. Vicki Williams, Grants Coordinator, gave Council an update on the 2020 Census. She stated that 80 people signed up to be Census takers. Ms. Williams continued by stating that every church in Clarendon County was sent a packet explaining the Census and the information was printed in three different languages. She stated that Clarendon County's goal is 48% and we now have a 38% response rate. Ms. Williams concluded her update by thanking Ms. Meesha Witherspoon for setting up a website for the Census and she stated that the Census takers will be knocking on 63,200 doors in low response areas in South Carolina.

4. Presentation – Santee Wateree Regional Transportation Authority.

Ms. Lottie Jones, Executive Director of Santee Wateree Regional Transportation Authority, began her presentation by thanking Council for giving them the opportunity to present their Transit Needs Assessment and Framework. She stated that this plan is not etched in stone so any ideas or suggestion that County Council had can be included in this plan.

Mr. Chris McKinney, Executive Director of Santee Lynches Regional Council of Government, began by stating that this is the most detailed comprehensive plan that they have created. He continued by stating that they spoke with different people, businesses and hospitals to get their needs and they are included in the plan.

Mr. Jake Whitmire, Regional Planner, began his presentation by showing Council a Power Point Presentation showing the need of Transportation. He stated that homes with no vehicles are more likely to use public transportation than other homes. Mr. Whitmire continued by stating that the Summerton Area where there isn't a grocery store will also be more likely to use public transportation. He continued by stating that Clarendon County recommendations are seven new routes, 32 bus stops, \$657,500 Capital Cost, and \$681,500 Annual Cost.

1. Summerton Connector – 45 minutes, 9 stops, 22.4 miles in length, 8 trips per day and expected number of riders 210.
2. Manning Connector – 30 minutes, 11 stops, 7.5 miles in length, 12 trips per day and expected number of riders 323.
3. Manning Industrial Park – 40 minutes, 10 stops, 13.5 miles in length, 5 trips per day and expected number of riders 157.
4. Wyboo Connector – 45 minutes, 11 stops, 25.2 miles in length, 3 trips per day and expected number of riders 106.
5. Turbeville Connector – 50 minutes. 5 stops, 37.6 miles in length, 3 trips per day and expected number of riders 111.
6. F.E. Dubose Connector – 25 minutes, 8 stops, 6.5 miles in length, 5 trips per day and expected number of riders 143.
7. Sumter-Manning Connector – 81 minutes, 13 stops, 45.8 miles in length, 5 trips per day and expected number of riders 238.

Mr. Whitmire completed his presentation by stating that the key Transit Partners / Stakeholders are Local Government, Educational Providers, Economic Development. Social Service Providers, Healthcare Providers, and Housing providers.

Chairman Stewart thanked Santee Wateree and Santee Lynches Regional Council of Government for the information about public transportation. He stated that he thinks this would be a good thing for Clarendon County.

5. Resolution 2020-06

Administrator Epperson presented Council with Resolution 2020-06 – Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. He stated that this is an Update to the Hazard Mitigation Plan to recognize the threat that natural hazards pose to people and property.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to Resolution 2020-06 – A Resolution Updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

6. Presentation of Proposed FY2020-2021 Budget

Lynden Anthony, CFO, began his presentation by thanking the staff of the Finance department, departmental managers and elected officials.

Last month at First Reading, the budget that we are submitting for Second Reading contains the State allowed millage increase of 1.82% for County operations. [3.0 mils]

The General Fund budget includes a reduction of 8.0 mils, that is essentially transferred over to the Emergency Services Special Tax District for use in integrating EMS into the Fire department, henceforth referred to as the Fire Rescue function.

We are also recommending an increase to the Local Option Sales Tax credit given to taxpayers of \$200,000; a credit of \$2.8 million.

We have increased revenues by about \$90,000 since first reading; a result of anticipated increases in delinquent tax collections and the addition of the proposed sale of the old DSS building.

We have not included a COLA for employees, and we are anticipating that our health insurance premiums will increase 14.5% on January 1st.

We have oriented the budget binders, tables and departmental expense sections the same as previous years. You will see that we are presenting a balanced General Fund budget to you this evening.

Total General Fund operational expenditures total \$21,713,320; a decrease of about 1.0% over the current year budget.

There are three major components to anticipated revenue for Fire Rescue services within the County:

- We are budgeting the same 1.82% mil increase for Fire operations;
- The new Emergency Services tax district will have an initial millage rate of 17.4 mils; and,
- Billable (net) collections of \$1.2 million.

With total Fire Rescue revenue of \$6,350,000 and expenditures of \$6,450,000; at this time, we are requesting that \$100,000 of current Fire Rescue fund balances be utilized in the upcoming fiscal year to balance.

We are requesting that the Hospitality Fee Fund increase its level of operational support to \$60,000 for Weldon Auditorium.

We would like to include in our request a \$2 million Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) be approved in the event it becomes necessary for cash flow purposes.

At first reading we requested to borrow an amount not to exceed \$250,000 in the form of a five-year capital lease and have made no changes to this request.

For purposes of this Second reading, the following level of expenses as reflected within your binders:

General Fund	\$ 21,713,320
General County Debt	1,432,004
FE Dubose VoTec	244,000
Fire Rescue	4,782,850
Emergency Svc Distr.	1,667,080
Fire Debt	105,163
Admin Complex Debt svc	492,115
Courthouse Debt svc	<u>261,300</u>
Total Appropriations	\$ 30,697,832
Water & Sewer (op ex)	559,602
Weldon Auditorium (op ex)	122,650

7. Public Hearing – Ordinance 2020-06

Chairman Stewart stated that the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2020-06 – An Ordinance to Provide for a Levy of Taxes for County Purposes of Clarendon County, SC., for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2020 and Ending June 30, 2021, to Direct the Expenditures of Said Taxes and Other Funds for Clarendon County, and to Provide for Other Matters Related Thereto Including the Administrative Accountability Procedures to be Followed During Implementation of the Budget (Operating and Capital) for Clarendon County for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2020 and Ending June 30, 2021 is now open.

The Public Hearing started at 6:45 pm.

Chairman Steward asked if there were any comments on the budget ordinance. Hearing none he stated that the Public Hearing will now close. The Public Hearing closed at 6:45 pm

8. Ordinance 2020-06

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Second Reading of Ordinance 2020-06- An Ordinance to Provide for a Levy of Taxes for County Purposes of Clarendon County, SC., for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2020 and Ending June 30, 2021, to Direct the Expenditures of Said Taxes and Other Funds for Clarendon County, and to Provide for Other Matters Related Thereto Including the Administrative Accountability Procedures to be Followed During Implementation of the Budget (Operating and Capital) for Clarendon County for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2020 and Ending June 30, 2021.

9. Financial Report

Mr. Lynden Anthony, CFO, began his report by stating the following:

- **The General Fund** had Expenditures of \$1,527,527 and Revenue figures were not available as of May 31, 2020.
- **Weldon Auditorium** had Revenue of \$13,083 the month ending May 31, 2020 and total Expenses were \$102,475. He stated that the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of May 2020 after transfers with a Zero balance.
- **Water and Sewer Department** had Operating Revenue of \$857,434 and Operating Expenses of \$532,305 as of May 31, 2020. He stated that after depreciation and Bond interest expense, Interest Income, and Grant Revenue, the Water and Sewer Department had Net Utility Income of \$48,912.
- **The C-Fund Program** for the month of May 2020 had a Cash Balance of \$2,048,201 of which \$1,744,655 has been committed to remaining local paving projects, State Construction Projects in Progress and State Proviso Funds. He stated that the C-Fund Program had an Uncommitted Balance of \$303,546 as of the end of May 2020.

10. Administrator's Report

Administrator Epperson began his report by giving Council the following updates:

- **Water Projects**- our USDA Phase II project is nearing the end of the original scope. Due to cost savings, we are in the process of securing approval from USDA to extend the scope to include additional areas for expansion.
- **Clarendon County Fire Rescue**- Facility upgrades are underway, and plans are being finalized for the merger. We are eagerly anticipating our first day on July 1, 2020.
- **Road Paving**- Approved projects are on track for this fiscal year. However, projects in the upcoming year may be delayed based on anticipated reductions in C-funds received from the State.
- **COVID-19** - As of June 5, 2020

Total Cases in Clarendon County:	304
Active Cases from Last 14 Days:	18

- **Public Outreach Efforts**

we continue to push out information regarding the pandemic and ways the public can protect itself and their families. Social distancing, wearing a mask and avoiding large gatherings are highly recommended.

- **Update on the Recreation Department**

Parks were opened on a limited basis beginning June 1, 2020. All green spaces to include fields are open

for use by groups of no more than 3 people. Walking tracks/trails are also open. Basketball Courts, Tennis Courts, Batting Cages, Picnic Shelters and Bathrooms remain closed.

- **Update on Weldon Auditorium**

Events at Weldon Auditorium are canceled through the end of June. Auditoriums remain closed by order of the Governor.

- **Update on Reopening Plan**

Staff returned on Monday, May 18, 2020 with new safety protocols in place. PPE has been provided and separation barriers have been installed in offices where there is direct contact between customers and staff.

The general public returned on Monday, June 1, 2020, to all County Facilities. Currently, there are limitations on the number of individuals who are allowed in our facilities at one time. This will be monitored and will be adjusted accordingly depending on the circumstances.

- **Misc.**

- A special called County Council meeting is planned for June 24 at 10am. This will be in the County Council Chambers.
- County offices will be closed on Friday July 3, 2020 in observance of the July 4th holiday.

11. Chairman's Report

Chairman Stewart began his report by stating that an article he read about the Spanish Flu is that one day the Spanish Flu went away. He said that we do not know what will happen here with COVID-19 but he wants to thank everyone for continuing to be safe and trying to keep our family safe. He stated that we have a united county and all of us are doing what must be done to stay safe.

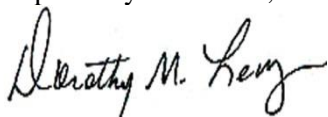
- Vice Chairman Frierson stated that he wants to send his condolences the Hilliard family. He stated that Tim Hilliard worked as the Public Works Director for many years.
- Councilman Blakely stated that Tim Hilliard was a friend of the County and he kept a lot of heat from County Council.

12. Adjourn

Chairman Stewart stated that we have exhausted our agenda and he declared that the Council Meeting is adjourn.

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC

